Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
Wash, D.C. 20036

11/15/77

Dear Les,

My wife turned our copier on after supper to make the copies of my Army Intelligence/ JFK records for you and fot the first time in more than 30,000 copies it malfunctioned. Out here in the country we can't even ask for a service call at night. I'll phone in the morning. There is no local service. It comes from Hagerstown. They guarantee within 48 hours. So, one way or another, I'll have the copies with me when I have to go to D.C. Friday if I cannot get them into the mail for you before then. I'm pretty sure of being able to have copies for you before then. But I can't go into Frederick to have the copies made commercially tomorrow because my car is in the shop for three days to have the paint touched up, eliminating the rust before bad weather.

Meanwhile, I'll excerpt the records I picked out this morning

Under date of June 22, 1971 Raymond P. Boulanger, Assistant to General Counsel, Army, wrote me that "from the records which are presently available" the James W. Powell, of whom I'd asked, "was an Army intelligence agent at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy." They claimed he had filed nothing about the assassination, according to these records which are presently available."

Another record I took out of the file is of May 1,1975, by Lt. Col. Everett E. Mann, Defense Investigative Service. Before then I'd also asked for copies of all the records on me. He begins by trying to explain how their check on me yielded a "no record" response. (Not that I was not a solider in World War II.) Yet they had listings on me under "Assassination President John F. Kennedy." Only now they have nothing and "There is no way to tell what was in the files since they have been destroyed." He assumed the FBI had the information, which accounts for my silence until I heard that the FBI had made a release of its Army Intelligence information,

April 30, 1975, Army General Counsel Charles D. Abelard to me, "As stated in my letter of March 5,1975, the Department of the Army has made every effort to locate the material you have requested and has been unable to do so.

The April 17, 1975 Mann letter to me, he has had their files checked, including on the Kennedy assassination and the Warren Commission, and "In all cases I have received a 'no record' response."? There were earlier records and "The search revealled the following tracings that have since been deleted by the originators from the index: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, indexed by the Army Investigative Records Repository, two listings: file number ZA 013685 (no date indicated), and file number ZB 500928, listed as 1967. Assassinate [sic] President United States, indexed by the USAF OSI, file number 24C-0/515, no date indicated."

I got no farthur when I interested the DoD. It did refer to others. One was Army Intelligence, Fort Meade, with a response from Thomas F. Conley, Chief, Freedom of Information Center of July 29,1977. It begins the response to Hinckle, DoD, by referring to his and my letters, mine "complaining that the Agency has failed to locate any records on the John F. Kennedy assassination and/or himself." This is Army Intelligence Agency. As Conley here could not bring himself to refer to JFK as President, elsewhere he referred to the assassination as the "incident." He did not like the vigor of my response.

On JFK Conley writes "Checks of the Impersonal Title Index of the Defense Central Index of Investigations (DCII) were conducted under various titles relating to the assassination, to determine the existence of any records pertaining to the incident. The results of the DCII checks indicate that no Army intelligence investigative records exist concerninf the JFK assassination." (He did not mention their destructions, Mann, above.)

On the Army intelligence agent present at the crime and confined to the building from which it was said to have been committed,"Regarding the reference to James Powell, Mr. Weisberg has been ~~informed~~ advised that there are no Army reports, records or photographs of Mr. Powell's presence at the JFK assassination scene."

They checked the records of Powell's outfit, the 112th Military Intelligence Group. "No information was found relating to the JFK assassination." He concluded by describing their "Exhaustive searches" and that "no records ... are known to exist."

But James W. Powell's superior, Colonel E.E.Boyd, did give a Powell transparency to the FBI. My 1/1/69 request of it for a copy and for all the relevant reports was repeated 12/2/70. Both are without response - under the 10-day law. Boyd told the FBI Powell believed his shot was taken within 30 seconds of the shooting. He was close by, having just had lunch.

Powell was interviewed by FBI SA George T. Binney 1/3/64 in Dallas. Binney manages not to mention that Powell was confined to the TSBD, that he was there and took his picture fast enough to get into the building before the police blocked the door. That I learned from a Secret Service record, Dallas Secret Service Agent Roger C. Warner. He had been told by Dallas police detective Jack Brian of his having interrogated Powell. Powel "was trapped inside" the TSBD, Warner wrote. He then interviewed Powell. This account has Powell standing near the corner of the streets where the TSBD is and as joining a Sheriff's searching party.

There is no record that this Army Intelligence agent was "trapped" inside the building with a camera and took a single picture in or from inside it. I have trouble believing this or that he made no report of any kind.

The early report to me that the FBI had records, meaning in addition to those I had and had not given them to the Warren Commission, inhibited me on this. I wanted those records out. I had a request for them that the FBI ignored. However, last night I read a letter from a friend who has them, from the FBI.

If you want to go farthur after this that can make a separate story. But I have to regard it as his work unless he tells me otherwise. You can let me know and I can be in touch with him. Meanwhile, I'll ask the FBI Friday where my copies of those records are. Jim has the flu, which has put him behind, so I did not ask him to ask the FBI.

Going along with this there is what I would regard as worthy of mention. I've seen no mention of any comparison between the number of pages the FBI says it is now releasing and the number it gave the Warren Commission. On the latter, xii of the Report states that the FBI conducted about 25,000 interviews and submitted 2,300 reports on them. Obviously this was not all the reports on more than 10 times that many interviews. The FBI gave the Commission approximately 25,400 pages. It appears now that the FBI is releasing soon some 80,000 pages and if I understand correctly this is one of two releases.

I was not assuming, as would appear to be reasonable, that the Army had records of the assassination. I have the file numbers above and the statement that it has all been filed in the memory hole.

Those crazies act like conspirators. Why destroy anything, especially records of so historic an event. In which the Army did not close the border and I understand that when Mexico did some U.S. authority opened it. But then the airports were not closed in Dallas or in Memphis.

Best,